



August 22, 2006

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Apply for California Office of Traffic Safety Sobriety Checkpoint Mini-Grant Funding**REPORT IN BRIEF**

The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety is seeking Council approval to apply for a Sobriety Checkpoint Mini-Grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). If awarded, the mini-grant will fund overtime for two sobriety checkpoints in December 2006/January, 2007 and in September, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The mission of OTS is to obtain and effectively administer traffic safety grant funds to reduce deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from traffic related collisions. OTS recently announced that grant funds are available to law enforcement agencies for the 2006/07 winter holiday period and the 2007 Labor Day weekend through their "Sobriety Checkpoint Mini-grant Program." Grant Applications are due to OTS by August 25, 2006.

EXISTING POLICY**4.1 Law Enforcement Sub-Element**

Goal 4.1A: Provide a safe and secure environment for people and property in the community.

Policy 4.1A.5: Facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.

Action Statement 4.1A.5g: Participate in activities that enhance the successful detection, apprehension, rehabilitation and prevention of persons driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Action Statement 4.1A5h: Participate in prevention and enforcement activities directed at minimizing personal injury in traffic collisions.

Policy 4.1D.2: Provide effective and efficient management of Public Safety resources in order to meet the needs of: The community, the internal organization, and those mandated by regional, State, and Federal agencies.

Action Statement 4.1D.2b: Develop proposals and apply for appropriate governmental grants.

DISCUSSION

Public Safety received notification from OTS encouraging a grant application to fund sobriety checkpoints during the coming year.

Each year, OTS funds similar mini-grants. The goal of the statewide checkpoint program is to reduce the number of people killed in alcohol-involved crashes. Sobriety checkpoints are an effective way to maximize the deterrent effect and increase the perception of apprehension of motorists who would operate a vehicle while impaired by alcohol. Studies conducted in California and other states point to the fact that cities conducting sobriety checkpoints reports substantial reductions in alcohol-involved crashes.

The mini-grants are available for overtime costs to conduct sobriety checkpoints during the following two "National Impaired Driving Campaign" mobilization periods:

- The Winter Holiday period in December 2006/January 2007
- The Labor Day period in August 2007/September 2007

The Department of Public Safety must submit the grant application by August 25, 2006. If awarded, the mini-grant is expected to be in the amount of \$40,000. Public Safety will return to Council for grant acceptance if funding is awarded.

FISCAL IMPACT

In conjunction with the Department of Finance, Public Safety will establish a new cost neutral project in the General Fund to receive and expend the OTS grant funds.

CONCLUSION

Sobriety checkpoints have proven to be an effective tool to apprehend drivers who choose to drive while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Acceptance of this grant funding will allow Public Safety to participate in statewide efforts with no net impact on the Operating Budget.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made through posting of the Council agenda on the City's official notice bulletin board, posting of the agenda and report on the City's web page, and the availability of the report in the Library and Office of the City Clerk.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Allow the Department of Public Safety to proceed with the OTS mini-grant application.
2. Do not allow the Department of Public Safety to proceed with the OTS mini-grant application.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative #1.

Reviewed by:

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Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

Amy Chan
City Manager

Attachments

None